



# ***Want to be An Officer?***



**Attend Officer Candidate School  
through the**

**Division Commander's  
Direct Select Option.**

**Marne 6 will select 20 eligible  
Soldiers for direct entry into  
Officer Candidate School.**

**Contact your chain of command  
for more information.**

**<http://usmilitary.about.com/od/armytrng>**

**Application packets must be  
submitted to G-1 by 8 May 2009.**

## FACT SHEET

17 December 2008

**SUBJECT:** Direct Select Officer Candidate School (OCS) Program

**PURPOSE:** To provide the Commanding General information on the Direct Select OCS program.

**DISCUSSION:** MILPER Message 08-313, issued 9 December 2008 provides information and eligibility requirements for the Army Federal OCS Program for the remainder of FY 09 and 1st Quarter FY10. The two OCS selection methods, eligibility requirements, and OCS board schedule for the remainder of FY09 are outlined below. Implementing guidance to units will follow in a Division FRAGO.

1. Selection Methods: The OCS selection process includes two methods of selection, the Direct Select through an Army General Officer Commander and the Army Human Resources Command (HRC) Board Select method. Each method is discussed below
  - a. Direct Select: Army General Officer Commanders may direct select up to 20 Soldiers through December 2009 to attend OCS. Selecting General Officers must personally endorse the applications of Soldiers they select for OCS. Soldiers selected by this method must meet all eligibility requirements without requiring a waiver. Soldier's who require a waiver can submit their OCS application through their Chain of Command to HRC for consideration by the HRC OCS selection board.
  - b. HQDA (HRC) Board Select: Soldiers not direct selects by an Army General Officer Commander, if otherwise eligible, may submit a completed application through their Chain of Command to HRC for consideration. All packets received, both Direct Select and HRC Board Select will be reviewed by HRC OCS selection and branching board. Those Direct Selects will be branched at that time. Others will be reviewed for selection by the board and, if selected, will also be branched.
2. OCS Eligibility Requirements:
  - a. Be a U.S. Citizen (Non-Waiverable)
  - b. Have not reached 38th birthday at time application is received by HRC. For those applying for aviation branch, not have reached 30th birthday at time application is received by HRC. (Non-Waiverable)
  - c. Meet Army Height and Weight Standards (Non-Waiverable)
  - d. Have a minimum of 90 non-duplicate semester hours of college leading to a specified degree. (Non-Waiverable)
  - e. Recommend by Commander (Non-Waiverable)
  - f. Secret security clearance or higher.

- g. Less than ten years of active federal service.
  - h. All Soldiers must appear before a structured interview board (Non-Waiverable)
  - i. Reserve Component Soldiers are not eligible for this program.
  - j. Soldiers cannot have a permanent profile which would prohibit them from taking the standard APFT. Alternate PT is not acceptable. (Non-Waiverable)
3. OCS Selection / Branching Board Schedule for FY09:
- a. 20-24 April 2009. Packets must arrive at HRC NLT 20 March 2009.
  - b. 10-14 August 2009. Packets must arrive at HRC NLT 10 July 2009.
  - c. 16-20 November 2009. Packets must arrive at HRC NLT 12 October 2009.

**MILPER MESSAGE NUMBER : 08-313**  
**AHRC-OPD-A**  
**FY 09 FEDERAL OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
Issued: [12/09/2008]

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1. THIS MESSAGE EXPIRES 31 DECEMBER 2009.
2. THIS MESSAGE RESCINDS MILPER MESSAGE 01-138, 05-129, 06-128 AND 07-226.
3. REF AR 350-51, OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL (OCS), AR 601-100, APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONED AND WARRANT OFFICERS IN THE REGULAR ARMY, AR 40-501, STANDARDS OF MEDICAL FITNESS [\* RAR 001 2008/09/10]
4. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARMY'S FEDERAL OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL AND ACTIVE COMPONENT SOLDIER ELIGIBILITY, APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS, WAIVERS, SELECTION AND BRACHING PROCEDURES, AND GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE REMAINDER OF FY 09 AND 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER, FY 10.
5. THERE ARE FOUR MAJOR CHANGES BEING ANNOUNCED BY THIS MESSAGE. THEY ARE DISCUSSED IN APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPHS OF THIS MESSAGE AND ARE LISTED HERE:
  - A. NOT HAVE REACHED 38<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDATE (PARA 6B)
  - B. STRUCTURED LOCAL BOARD INTERVIEW FOR ALL APPLICANTS, INCLUDING DIRECT SELECTS (PARA 7T)
  - C. APPLICANTS REQUIRING A WAIVER ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR GENERAL OFFICER DIRECT SELECT (PARA 9A1)
  - D. MINIMUM FOUR YEAR DEGREE. IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CHANGE WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN A SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE.
6. ELIGIBILITY: SOLDIERS MUST MEET ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN CHAPTER 1, AR 350-51 AND AS LISTED BELOW AND SUBMIT ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 7.
  - A. BE A U.S. CITIZEN (NON-WAIVERABLE).
  - B. NOT HAVE REACHED 38<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDATE AT TIME APPLICATION IS RECEIVED BY HRC (SEE PARAGRAPH 7a BELOW). FOR THOSE APPLYING FOR AVIATION BRANCH, NOT HAVE REACHED 30<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDATE AT TIME APPLICATION IS RECEIVED BY HRC (NON-WAIVERABLE).
  - C. PASS ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST (NON-WAIVERABLE).
  - D. MEET ARMY HEIGHT AND WEIGHT STANDARDS (NON-WAIVERABLE).

E. HAVE A MINIMUM OF 90 NONDUPLICATE SEMESTER HOURS OF COLLEGE LEADING TO A SPECIFIED DEGREE (NON-WAIVERABLE).

F. RECOMMENDED BY COMMANDER (NON-WAIVERABLE).

G. GT SCORE OR 110 OR HIGHT (NON-WAIVERABLE).

H. SECRET SECURITY CLEARANCE OR HIGHER (NON-WAIVERABLE; SEE PARAGRAPH 7n).

I. LESS THAN TEN YEARS OF ACTIVE FEDERAL SERVICE (SEE PARAGRAPH 8b BELOW).

J. SOLDIERS IN BCT, AIT, DFLIC, OR ANY TYPE OF INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING STATUS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE (NON-WAIVERABLE).

K. RECRUITERS AND DRILL SERGEANTS/PLATOON SERGRANTS IN IET ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY UNLESS THEY ARE IN THE FINAL SIX MONTHS OF THEIR TOURS (NON-WAIVERABLE).

L. ALL SOLDIERS MUST APPEAR BEFORE A STRUCTURED INTERVIEW (LOCAL BOARD; NON-WAIVERABLE). SEE PARAGRAPH 7t.

M. RESERVE COMPONENT SOLDIERS IN ANY CAPACITY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM.

N. SOLDIERS CANNOT HAVE A PERMANENT PROFILE WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT THEM FROM TAKING THE STANDARD APFT. THERE IS NO WAIVER FOR THIS REQUIREMENT. ALTERNATE PT TEST NOT ACCEPTABLE (NON-WAIVERABLE).

7. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE ARMY PUBLISHING HOMEPAGE OR AT A LOCAL PERSONNEL SERVICE CENTER. DO NOT SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION NOT REFLECTED BELOW.

A. RECOMMENDATION FROM COMMANDING OFFICER.

B. CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH IN UNIFORM.

C. CERTIFICATION OF GT SCORE.

D. COMPLETED DA FORM 61 (APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT). ENSURE ALL APPROPRIATE ITEMS ARE COMPLETED AND SIGNED. CHAIN OF COMMAND ENDORSEMENTS (COMPANY & BATTALION COMMANDER) MUST BE LISTED IN PART II. IN ITEM 41 LISTS ANY CIVILIAN OR MILITARY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS OR AWARDS (SUCH AS CAPTAIN OF BASEBALL/FOOTBALL/SOCCER TEAM, ETC) THAT ARE NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE IN THE APPLICATION.

E. COMPLETED DA FORM 5339-R (COMMANDER'S EVALUATION SHEET). HEIGHT AND WEIGHT OF SOLDIER MUST BE LISTED HERE IF NOT INDICATED ON THE COMMANDERS ENDORSEMENT ON THE DA FORM 61.

F. DA FORM 705 (ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST SCORECARD) WITH A MINIMUM OF TWO (2) SCORED TESTS.

G. DA FORM 5500-R (BODYFAT) IF NECESSARY.

H. A MAXIMUM OF FOUR (4) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION, EACH NOT EXCEEDING ONE PAGE IN LENGTH AND NOT MORE THAN 1-YEAR OLD (OPTIONAL).

I. DA FORMS 1059 REFLECTING COMPLETION OF PLDC, BNCOC, OR ANCOC (IF APPLICABLE).

J. COPIES OF ALL COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS. SOLDIERS WHO HAVE ATTENDED MORE THAN ONE COLLEGE SHOULD BRING ALL THEIR TRANSCRIPTS TO THEIR LOCAL EDUCATION CENTER AND OBTAIN A LETTER STATING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NONDUPLICATE HOURS OF COLLEGE EDUCATION THEY HAVE. A GPA DETERMINATION IS REQUIRED.

K. RESULTS OF A SAT OR ACT TEST FOR SOLDIERS WHO DO NOT HAVE A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE. PASSING SAT SCORE IS 850; PASSING ACT SCORE IS 19. TEST RESULTS MUST NOT BE OVER 6-YEARS OLD AT TIME OF APPLICATION. THIS REQUIREMENT CANNOT BE WAIVED.

L. A COPY OF THE ENLISTED RECORD BRIEF. THE ERB MUST REFLECT THE GT SCORE AND THE UIC CODE MUST BE CURRENT. WARRANT OFFICERS SHOULD SUBMIT A COPY OF THEIR OFFICER RECORD BRIEF.

M. A COMPLETED DA FORM 4255-R (INITIAL ACTIVE DUTY ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS REQUEST. COMPLETE FORM AS THOUGH A LIEUTENANT.

N. A SIGNED STATEMENT FROM THE LOCAL SECURITY OFFICE THAT THE SOLDIER HAS A FINAL SECRET OR HIGHER SECURITY CLEARANCE, INDICATING TYPE INVESTIGATION AND DATE COMPLETED. A SOLDIER MAY APPLY FOR OCS IF A SECURITY REQUEST HAS BEEN INITIATED AND RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE DEFENSE SECURITY SERVICE (DSS) ON THEIR WEB SITE VIA THE ELECTRONIC PERSONNEL SECURITY QUESTIONNAIRE (EPSQ). A COPY OF THE DSS EPSQ RECEIPT OR RESULTS IS ACCEPTABLE.

O. PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP FOR SOLDIERS NOT BORN IN THE USA. A STATEMENT FROM THE UNIT COMMANDER OR PERSONNEL OFFICER THAT HE/SHE HAS REVIEWED NATURALIZATION PAPERS OF THE APPLICANT IS ACCEPTABLE. SOLDIERS CANNOT APPLY FOR OCS IF NOT US CITIZENS (NON-WAIVERABLE).

P. A COMPLETED DA FORM 4322-R (OCS CONTRACT).

Q. A COPY OF DD FORM 2808 INDICATING THE APPLICANT IS QUALIFIED FOR OCS OR QUALIFIED FOR APPOINTMENT UP CHAPTER 2, AR 40-501 BASED ON A PHYSICAL NOT OVER 1-YEAR OLD. IF AN ENLISTED SOLDIER IS REQUESTING AVIATION AS A BRANCH PREFERENCE, THE PHYSICAL MUST CONTAIN THE APPROVAL STAMP OF THE ARMY AEROMEDICAL CENTER AT FT RUCKER.

R. COPY OF DA FORM 6256 (AFASST) FOR ENLISTED SOLDIERS REQUESTING AVIATION AS A BRANCH. ENLISTED SOLDIERS 30 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ASSIGNMENT TO AVIATION. THIS AGE RESTRICTION CANNOT BE WAIVED.

S. DD FORM 785 (RECORD OF DISENROLLMENT). ONLY REQUIRED IF PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED AN OFFICER PRODUCING SCHOOL (OCS, ROTC, USMA).

T. DA FORM 6285 (STRUCTURED LOCAL BOARD INTERVIEW) RESULTS. MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH BOARD MEMBER (MINIMUM NUMBER OF 3 OFFICERS). WRITTEN COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS ARE HIGHLY DESIRED. PRIOR TO BEING INTERVIEWED, EACH OCS APPLICANT MUST MAKE A WRITTEN STATEMENT ON STANDARD 8 ½ BY 11-INCHES PAPER

INDICATING "WHY I WANT TO BE AN ARMY OFFICER". AFTER THE LOCAL INTERVIEW, THE THREE INTERVIEW WORKSHEETS AND THE WRITTEN STATEMENT SHOULD BE ENCLOSED IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND FORWARDED WITH THE COMPLETE OCS APPLICATION TO DA.

U. ADDITIONALLY, THE OCS PERSONNEL INFORMATION SHEET AT [https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/opdistacc/OCS/OCS\\_APPL.htm](https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/opdistacc/OCS/OCS_APPL.htm) IS AVAILABLE TO ASSIST SOLDIERS WITH APPLICATIONS.

8. WAIVERS: SOLDIERS MAY REQUEST THE FOLLOWING WAIVERS. ALL WAIVER REQUESTS MUST BE MADE ON A DA FORM 4187 SIGNED BY THE SOLDIER AND HIS/HER IMMEDIATE COMMANDER. MULTIPLE WAIVER REQUESTS MAY BE MADE ON ONE DA FORM 4187. ANY SOLDIER REQUIRING A WAIVER IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR GENERAL OFFICER DIRECT SELECT (SEE PARAGRAPH 9a BELOW).

A. AGE WAIVER IF SOLDIER WILL BE 38 OR OLDER BUT HAS NOT REACHED THEIR 40<sup>TH</sup> BIRTH DATE AT TIME OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION.

B. A REQUEST FOR A TIME IN SERVICE WAIVER FOR ANY SOLDIER WITH TEN OR MORE YEARS OF ACTIVE FEDERAL SERVICE.

C. A REQUEST FOR WAIVER FOR ANY SOLDIER WHO HAS HAD A CIVIL/MORAL/MILITARY OFFENSE INDICATING THE TYPE OFFENSE, DATE AND PLACE WHERE IT HAPPENED, AND PUNISHMENT IMPOSED.

9. SELECTION AND BRANCHING PROCEDURES: THE OCE SELECTION PROCESS INCLUDES TWO METHODS OF SELECTION, THE DIRECT SELECT THROUGH AN ARMY GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDER AND THE HRC BOARD SELECT METHODS. EACH IS DISCUSSED BELOW.

A. DIRECT SELECT:

1. ARMY GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDERS MAY DIRECT SELECT SOLDIERS TO ATTEND OCS WHO MEET ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT REQUIRING A WAIVER.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARMY GENERAL OFFICER (GO) COMMANDERS MAY SELECT UP TO 20 (TWENTY) ELIGIBLE SOLDIERS EACH DURING THE REMAINDER OF FY 09 THROUGH 31 DECEMBER 2009. TO ATTEND OCS: AHRC, USAAC, SDDC, USACE, USAREUR, EUCOM, FORSCOM, TRADOC, AMC, MEDCOM, USARPAC, USARSO, SMDC, USASOC, MDW, CIDCMD, 1USA, 3USA, 5USA, 8USA, ICORPS, IIICORPS, VCORPS, XVIII ABN CORPS, 1ID, 2ID, 3ID, 4ID, 7ID, 24ID, 25ID, 82D ABN DIV, 101 ABN DIV, 1AR DIV, SETAF, INSCOM, 1CAV, 10MTN DIV, MNF-I.

3. CONUS INSTALLATION ARMY COMMANDERS (GO ONLY) TO INCLUDE GO COMMANDERS OF INSTALLATIONS IN ALASKA, HAWAII, PUERTO RICO, AND MAJOR ARMY MEDICAL CENTERS MAY SELECT UP TO 7 (SEVEN) ELIGIBLE SOLDIERS EACH DURING THE REMAINDER OF FY 09 THROUGH 31 DECEMBER 2009. TO ATTEND OCS.

4. SELECTING GENERAL OFFICER MUST PERSONALLY ENDORSE THE APPLICATIONS OF THOSE SOLDIERS THEY SELECT FOR OCS. THE ENDORSEMENT TO THE APPLICATION SHOULD CITE THIS MESSAGE AND STATE "SOLDIER MEETS ALL CRITERIA FOR OCS ATTENDANCE IAW 350-51 AND AR 40-501 WITHOUT WAIVER AND IS APPROVED FOR DIRECT SELECTION TO OCS".

5. SOLDIER'S REQUIRING ANY WAIVERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A DIRECT SELECT. THESE SOLDIERS CAN SUBMIT APPLICATION THROUGH THEIR CHAIN OF COMMAND TO HRC FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE HRC OCS SELECTION AND BRANCHING BOARD.

B. HQDA (HRC) BOARD SELECT: SOLDIERS NOT DIRECT SELECTS BY AN ARMY GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDER, IF OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE, MAY SUBMIT A COMPLETED APPLICATION THROUGH THEIR CHAIN OF COMMAND TO HQDA, HRC FOR CONSIDERATION.

C. ALL PACKETS RECEIVED, BOTH DIRECT SELECT AND HRC BOARD SELECT WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE HQDA HRC OCS SELECTION AND BRANCHING BOARD. THOSE DIRECT SELECTS WILL BE BRANCHED AT THAT TIME. OTHERS WILL BE REVIEWED FOR SELECTION BY THE BOARD AND, IF SELECTED, WILL ALSO BE BRANCHED.

10. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. SELECTION AND BRANCHING RESULTS AND OCS CLASS ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY MILPER MESSAGE ON THE HRC WEBSITE, <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/opdistacc/OCS/COCS.htm> APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH AFTER THE BOARD HAS ADJOURNED. ONCE ANNOUNCED, SELECTED SOLDIERS ARE NOT TO BE DEPLOYED. DEPLOYED SOLDIERS WHO ARE SELECTED WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR OCS AFTER POST DEPLOYMENT STABILIZATION PROVIDED THE SOLDIER REMAINS ELIGIBLE.

B. ALL PACKETS SHOULD BE SENT TO: HQDA (AHRC-OPD-A), 200 STOVALL ST, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22332-0413 OR EMAILED TO [OCS-ACC-BR@CONUS.ARMY.MIL](mailto:OCS-ACC-BR@CONUS.ARMY.MIL) IN ENOUGH TIME TO MEET THE DEADLINES STATED BELOW. ONLY APPLICATIONS E-MAILED TO THIS ADDRESS WILL BE PROCESSED FOR THE BOARD.

C. THE FOLLOWING OCS SELECTION/BRANCHING BOARD SCHEDULE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR FY09:

A. 26 – 30 JANUARY 2009 PACKETS ARRIVE HRC-A NLT 19 DEC 2008

B. 20 – 24 APRIL 2009 PACKETS ARRIVE HRC-A NLT 20 MARCH 2009

C. 10 -14 AUGUST 2009 PACKETS ARRIVE HRC-A NLT 10 JULY 2009

D. 16 – 20 NOVEMBER 2009 PACKETS ARRIVE HRC-A NLT 12 OCTOBER 2009

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